

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03
FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 ICA-11 AGRE-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02
SIL-01 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 /121 W
-----111250 251520Z /64

R 250903Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5539
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD ETRD MO
SUBJ: PHOSPHATES: MOROCCAN VIEWS ON UNCTAD CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 121702

1. ACTING ON REF A REQUEST, E/C COUNSELOR INFORMALLY
RAISED ISSUE OF GOM ATTENDANCE AT JUNE 26-30 UNCTAD
PHOSPHATES PREPCON WITH MFA DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS DR. ZINE EL ABIDINE ALAOU, DURING PREVIOUSLY
SCHEDULED CALL TO DISCUSS OTHER MATTERS.
2. ALAOU, COULD NOT PROVIDE IMMEDIATE ANSWERS BUT
PROMISED TO RESPOND AFTER EXPECTED WEEK LONG ABSENCE FROM
MFA. GOM DECISION NOT TO ATTEND LAST MEETING, HE RECALLED,
HAD BEEN MADE AT QUOTE VERY HIGH UNQUOTE LEVEL. BASIC
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PROBLEM THEN--AS IT PROBABLY WOULD BE AGAIN--WAS THAT
ALTHOUGH MOROCCO HAD SUPPORTED ORIGINAL G-77 INITIATIVE
FOR FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW OF KEY COMMODITIES OF INTEREST
TO LDC'S, KING HAD MORE RECENTLY INSISTED THAT PHOSPHATES
NOT BECOME QUOTE POLITICIZED UNQUOTE OR QUOTE CARTELIZED
UNQUOTE. GOM HAD THUS FEARED THAT BY PARTICIPATING IN
SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE WHERE IT IS SIMULTANEOUSLY A MAJOR

PRODUCER, WORLD'S FIRST EXPORTER AND AN LDC, IT COULD WELL FIND ITSELF IN AWKWARD, INCREASINGLY POLITIZED POSITION.

3. IN ANY CASE, ALAOUI SAID REPORTS HE HAD RECEIVED FOLLOWING DECEMBER MEETING INDICATED IT HAD BEEN A COMPLETE QUOTE FIASCO UNQUOTE. E/C COUNSELOR COUNTERED THAT ONE MAJOR REASON FOR LACK OF SATISFACTORY DEBATE OR OUTCOME MUST SURELY HAVE BEEN MOROCCO'S ABSENCE. WITHOUT DENYING POINT, ALAOUI GRINNED AND SAID RESULTS MUST THEREFORE HAVE BEEN EXACTLY WHAT US WANTED. E/C COUNSELOR REJOINED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE ISSUE; USG HAD UNDERTAKEN TO PARTICIPATE IN UNCTAD-SPONSORED COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS, WAS READY TO DISCUSS INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY PROBLEMS AND WORK TOWARD MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTIONS. MOROCCO COULD BE A MAJOR HELP IN STEERING OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS IN A WAY THAT BOTH USG AND GOM WOULD FIND SATISFACTORY. CONTINUED MOROCCAN ABSENCE, ON THE OTHER HAND, WOULD BE HARD ON ALL PARTIES--INCLUDING LDC'S--TO UNDERSTAND. ALAOUI REITERATED THAT, PURSUANT TO KING'S INJUNCTIONS, GOM WAS PURSUING POLICY OF KEEPING PHOSPHATES OUT OF FOREIGN POLICY DOMAIN. AT NOVEMBER 1976 DAKAR CONFERENCE, FOR EXAMPLE, KING HAD INSTRUCTED OCP TO ATTEND, THUS ASSURING THAT DEBATE WAS LIMITED TO A QUOTE COMMERCIAL/TECHNICAL UNQUOTE INTERCHANGE.

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4. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF ALAOUI'S REMARKS, EMBASSY FINDS IT UNLIKELY THAT GOM WILL PARTICIPATE MEANINGFULLY IN UNCTAD PHOSPHATE CONSULTATIONS IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. MAXIMUM LIKELY CONCESSION WOULD SEEM TO BE FOR REPRESENTATIVE OF GOM'S GENEVA PERMDEL TO ATTEND AS OBSERVER. BASICALLY, WE THINK GOM FEELS IT IS DESTINED TO EVENTUALLY QUOTE MAKE THE MARKET UNQUOTE IN INTERNATIONAL PHOSPHATES AND IS UNWILLING TO ALLOW THIS MARKET POWER TO BE CONSTRAINED BY ANY MULTILATERAL ARRANGEMENT WHICH IT CANNOT CONTROL. GOM ALSO PROBABLY SEES ITSELF FACED WITH UNDESIRABLE NECESSITY OF RESISTING COMMODITY AGREEMENT IF IT DOES PARTICIPATE, A STAND WHICH WOULD TEND TO INJURE MOROCCO'S THIRD WORLD CREDENTIALS BY ALIGNING IT ESSENTIALLY (ALTHOUGH FOR DIFFERENT REASONS) WITH POSITIONS OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. THIS CONSERVATIVE COUNTRY PAYS PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO KEEPING ITSELF AN LDC IN-GOOD STANDING AND PROBABLY SEES QUOTE BENIGN NEGLECT UNQUOTE OF UNCTAD CONSULTATIONS AS THE LOWEST KEY WAY TO ELIMINATE THIS POTENTIAL THREAT TO ITS PERCEIVED EVENTUAL PHOSPHATE MARKET DOMINANCE.
ANDERSON

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